**Comparison of Statistics and Basics**

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|  | **Islam** | **Judaism** | **Christianity** |
| **adherents called** | Muslims | Jews | Christians |
| **current adherents** | 1.3 billion | 14 million | 2 billion |
| **current size rank** | 2nd largest | 12th largest | largest |
| **major concentration** | Middle East, Southeast Asia | Israel, Europe, USA | Europe, North and South America, rapid growth in Africa |
| **sacred text** | Qur'an (Koran) | Bible | Bible (Jewish Bible + New Testament) |
| **other written authority** | Hadith | Talmud, Midrash, Responsa | church fathers, church councils, papal decrees (Catholic only) |
| **religious law** | Sharia | Halakhah | Canon Law |
| **clergy** | imams | rabbis | priests, ministers, pastors, bishops |
| **house of worship** | mosque | synagogue | church, chapel, cathedral |
| **main day of worship** | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| **church and state** | integrated | separate | separate |

**Comparison of Origins and History**

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|  | **Islam** | **Judaism** | **Christianity** |
| **date founded** | 622 CE | unknown | c. 33 CE |
| **place founded** | Saudi Arabia | Palestine ([def](http://www.answers.com/topic/palestine)) | Palestine |
| **founder** | Muhammad | Moses or Abraham | Jesus |
| **original language(s)** | Arabic | Hebrew | Aramaic, Greek |
| **early expansion** | within 12 years, entire Arabian peninsula; within 100 years, Muslim world stretched from the Atlantic to China | little expansion; mostly confined to Palestine | within 60 years, churches in major cities in Palestine, Turkey, Greece and Rome ([map](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/christ.html)); entire Roman Empire by end of 4th cent. |
| **major splits** | Shia/Sunni, c. 650 CE | Reform/Orthodox, 1800s CE | Catholic/Orthodox, 1054 CE; Catholic/Protestant, 1500s CE |

**Comparison of Religious Beliefs**

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|  | **Islam** | **Judaism** | **Christianity** |
| **type of theism** | strict monotheism | strict monotheism | Trinitarian monotheism |
| **ultimate reality** | one God | one God | one God |
| **names of God** | Allah (Arabic for God) | Yahweh, Elohim | Yahweh, the Holy Trinity |
| **other spiritual beings** | angels, demons, jinn | angels and demons | angels and demons |
| **revered humans** | prophets, imams (especially in Shia) | prophets | saints, church fathers |
| **identity of Jesus** | true prophet of God, whose message has been corrupted | false prophet | Son of God, God incarnate, savior of the world |
| **birth of Jesus** | virgin birth | normal birth | virgin birth |
| **death of Jesus** | did not die, but ascended into heaven during crucifixion | death by crucifixion | death by crucifixion |
| **resurrection of Jesus** | denied | denied | affirmed |
| **second coming of Jesus** | affirmed | denied | affirmed |
| **divine revelation** | through Muhammad, recorded in Qur'an | through Prophets, recorded in Bible | through Prophets and Jesus (as God Himself), recorded in Bible |
| **view of sacred text** | inspired, literal word of God, inerrant in original languages | views vary | inspired, some believe inerrant in original languages |
| **human nature** | equal ability to do good or evil | two equal impulses, one good and one bad | "original sin" inherited from Adam - tendency towards evil |
| **means of salvation** | correct belief, good deeds, Five Pillars | belief in God, good deeds | correct belief, faith, good deeds, sacraments (some Protestants emphasize faith alone) |
| **God's role in salvation** | predestination | divine revelation and forgiveness | predestination, various forms of grace |
| **good afterlife** | eternal paradise | views vary: either heaven or no afterlife | eternal heaven |
| **bad afterlife** | eternal hell | views vary: either eternal Gehenna, reincarnation, or no afterlife | eternal hell, temporary purgatory (Catholicism) |
| **view of fellow Abrahamic religions** | Jews and Christians are respected as "People of the Book," but they have wrong beliefs and only partial revelation. | Islam and Christianity are false interpretations and extensions of Judaism. | Judaism is a true religion, but with incomplete revelation. Islam is a false religion. |

**The Universality of the Golden Rule in the World Religions**

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| **Christianity** | *All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.*  Matthew 7:1 |
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| **Confucianism** | *Do not do to others what you would not like yourself. Then there will be no resentment against you, either in the family or in the state.*  Analects 12:2 |
|  |  |
| **Buddhism** | *Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.*  Udana-Varga 5,1 |
|  |  |
| **Hinduism** | *This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you.*  Mahabharata 5,1517 |
| **Islam** | *No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.*  Sunnah |
| **Judaism** | *What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary.*  Talmud, Shabbat 3id |
| **Taoism** | *Regard your neighbor’s gain as your gain, and your neighbor’s loss as your own loss.* Tai Shang Kan Yin P’ien |
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